

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR NETWORKED INFORMATION
DISSEMINATION THROUGH SECURE TRANSCODING**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system enables network intermediaries such as proxies to transcode
5 multimedia data without violating end-to-end security guarantees. In one embodiment, a content
provider decomposes a data stream into a plurality of components, each of which are
independently encrypted. In a preferred embodiment, an intermediary or proxy performs
transcoding of the components by prioritizing and dropping predetermined components, in
accordance with unencrypted clear-text metadata associated with each component, without the
need for decrypting the components. Clear-text metadata preferably provides a semantic
understanding of the absolute or relative importance/priority of the components with respect to
each other, thereby facilitating the transcoding process. The destination/client device can
subsequently decrypt the components transmitted by the transcoding proxy and reassemble them
into a representation of the original data content.